

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An absorbing rod configured to be insertable which is to be inserted into one of a control rod guide pipe and a measuring pipe of spent bent fuel assemblies or a measuring pipe, said absorbing rod comprising a solid structure comprising one of an aluminum composite material and an aluminum alloy formed by adding one of a powder of boron or of and a boron compound having a neutron absorbing performance, to a powder of aluminum or of an aluminum alloy having an average diameter of 50-120 µm, said absorbing rod being insertable into one of said control rod guide pipe and said measuring pipe when transporting spent fuel assemblies stored in a casket.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The absorbing rod according to claim 13, wherein An absorbing rod as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said absorbing rod comprises one of an aluminum composite powder material and an aluminum alloy powder material formed by adding one of a boron powder and a boron powder compound having a neutron absorbing performance to said one of said aluminum composite powder and said aluminum alloy powder, said one of said aluminum composite power and said aluminum alloy powder comprise particles having a diameter of 5-150 µm and said one of said aluminum composite powder and said aluminum alloy powder comprises

said one of said aluminum composite material and said aluminum alloy comprises  
additional particles of a weight percentage in the range of 0.1-30, and is has a weight  
percentage in the range of 1-20, and

said one of said powder of boron and said boron compound has an average a particle  
diameter of 0.01-100  $\mu\text{m}$ .